

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-10 ERDA-07 OES-05

AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-02 H-02 EA-10 DIWY-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

SIL-01 LAB-04 /113 W

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R 181900Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7439

INFO USUN NEW YORK 293

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONGEN MONTREAL

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PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 64907, MARCH 24, 1975

SUMMARY: UN PROGRAMS ARE GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL AND WELL RECEIVED IN JAMAICA. THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE COORDINATES EFFECTIVELY BOTH WITHIN THE UN ORGANIZATIONS AND WITH THE OTHER BILATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL AGENCIES. THE CHIEF PROBLEM CONTINUES TO BE THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE JAMAICAN COUNTERPART PERSONNEL, CAUSING A MAJORITY OF UN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO BE ENGAGED IN OPERATION AS UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSED TO ADVISORY ROLES.

FOLLOWING RESPONSES KEYED TO QUESTIONS REFTEL:

A) THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A TOTAL MISSION STAFF OF 131 PEOPLE (12 MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO) OF WHOM 82 ARE TECHNICAL AND 49 ADMINISTRATIVE/CLERICAL. THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, A UNDP VETERAN WHO HAS NOW SPENT WELL OVER THREE YEARS IN JAMAICA, IS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR WHO MAINTAINS CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE NUMEROUS ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE UNDP PROGRAM, PRESENTLY INCLUDING ILO, FAO, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNFPA AND WFP. GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIPS APPEAR TO EXIST NOT ONLY WITH THE PARTICIPATING AGENCIES BUT ALSO WITH THE GOJ BOTH AT THE FIELD AND HEADQUARTERS LEVEL. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AGRICULTURE, THE UNDP PROGRAM ADDRESSES SECTORS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE ON WHICH THE IBRD CONCENTRATES. SINCE THE IBRD DOES NOT HAVE A LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE, THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE MEETS AND CONSULTS WITH IBRD STAFF WHENEVER THEY ARE IN JAMAICA. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, UNICEF DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE LAST COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE.

B) FORMAL AND INFORMAL COORDINATION AMONG ALL MULTILATERAL AND BI-LATERAL DONORS IN CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS. BI-MONTHLY FORMAL MEETINGS ARE CHAIRED BY THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, AND INCLUDE MOST AGENCIES AND EMBASSIES WITH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN JAMAICA. IN ADDITION TO THE UN, THESE ARE PRIMARILY THE IDB, OAS, CIDA, AID, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL FROM THE BRITISH, WEST GERMAN AND DUTCH EMBASSIES. A PROMINENT GOJ OFFICIAL FREQUENTLY ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS TO PRESENT THE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF HIS RESPECTIVE MINISTRY WHICH IS THEN DISCUSSED BY THE PARTICIPANTS. INFORMAL WORKING LUNCHEONS ALSO TAKE PLACE WHICH ARE USEFUL IN ENCOURAGING THE COOPERATION OF OTHER DONORS IN INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS.

C) THE UN RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ACTS AS FORMAL SPOKESMAN FOR ALL UN AGENCIES ACTIVE IN JAMAICA, AS LISTED
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IN POINT A) ABOVE. HE HAS NOT HAD ANY RECENT OCCASION TO ACT AS COORDINATOR FOR OTHER UN ACTIVITIES AS CITED IN THE REFTEL.

D) PRIOR TO THE LAST PROGRAM REVIEW THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE CONSULTED WITH AID AND NUMEROUS OTHER DONORS CONCERNING THEIR ACTUAL AND PLANNED PROGRAMS. AS FAR AS WE WERE ABLE TO ASCERTAIN NO REPRESENTATIVES

FROM OTHER AGENCIES WERE PRESENT AT THE REVIEW. WE
ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT FOLLOW-UP ACTION TAKEN
AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW.

3. THE CONTINUING LIAISON WITH THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENT-

ATIVE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN POINT B) ABOVE. TWO NEW
UNDP ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE
SECOND HALF OF 1975 ARE WORTHY OF MENTION. TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING
STANDARDS FILLS A PRESENTLY EXISTING GAP AND IS COMPLE-
MENTARY TO ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THE PROPOSED AID
RURAL EDUCATION SECTOR LOAN. PROPOSED UNDP ASSISTANCE
TO THE MINISTRY OF WORKS IN IMPROVING ITS CONTRACTING
SERVICES SHOULD BOOST THE MINISTRY'S EXPERTISE IN THIS
FIELD. CONTRACT PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE AID RURAL
FEEDER ROADS LOAN HAVE SUFFERED FROM DELAYS CAUSED IN
PART BY THE MINISTRY'S INEXPERIENCE WITH CONTRACT
NEGOTIATION, BIDDING PROCEDURES, ETC.

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F) VIRTUALLY ALL ONGOING UNDP PROJECTS ARE EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF COMPETENT COUNTERPART PERSONNEL. MOST UN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ARE IN EFFECT PERFORMING IN OPERATIONAL AS OPPOSED TO ADVISORY FUNCTIONS. WHILE THE GOJ IS AWARE OF THE SITUATION, LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE TO CORRECT IT SINCE IN MANY TECHNICAL FIELDS FULLY TRAINED AND COMPETENT JAMAICANS JUST ARE NOT AVAILABLE. WE ARE MOST FAMILIAR WITH UNDP PROJECTS IN AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY FORESTRY AND MORE RECENTLY THE UNDP OFF-SHORE FISHING PROJECT. BOTH OF THESE PROJECTS ARE STAFFED BY WELL QUALIFIED UNDP PERSONNEL AND PROJECT PROGRESS IS SATISFACTORY. OTHER PROJECTS, SUCH AS ANIMAL HEALTH (WHO) OR A TELE-COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT (ITU) HAVE EXPERIENCED DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION CAUSED GOJ SLOWNESS IN MEETING CERTAIN CONDITIONS PRECEDENT. WE ARE NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, OF THE ELIMINATION OF PROJECTS DUE TO FAILURE. NOR DO UNDP PROJECTS IN JAMAICA SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY UNCLASSIFIED

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AFFECTED BY RECRUITMENT FACTORS OR MATTERS SUCH AS HOUSING AND ALLOWANCES.

G) THE TRIPARTITE EVALUATION REVIEW, ACCORDING TO THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, PROVED USEFUL IN COMING TO GRIPS WITH ISSUES WHICH HAVE BEEN INHIBITING PROGRAM DELAYS AS WELL AS STREAMLINING OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. WE RECEIVE THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S ANNUAL REPORTS AS WELL AS THE BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE COUNTRY PROGRAMS. THE ANNUAL REPORTS GIVE A GOOD OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS, CONTAINING CONCISE STATEMENTS REGARDING THE PROJECT PURPOSE AND STATUS AGAINST PREVIOUSLY SET GOALS. THE BACKGROUND PAPERS CONTAIN AN ANALYSIS OF THE GOJ'S PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT SECTORS WITH EMPHASIS ON THE PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THEM. THE ONGOING AND PROPOSED UNDP PROGRAM IS DISCUSSED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THOSE SECTORS.

H) AS IS THE CASE WITH OTHER DONOR AGENCIES, INCLUDING AID, MOST UNDP PROJECTS ALREADY INVOLVE WOMEN TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT. JAMAICA'S MATRIARCHIAL SOCIETY HAS TRADITIONALLY FACILITATED THE ACCESS OF ITS FEMALE MEMBERS TO VIRTUALLY ALL SECTORS OF THE ISLAND'S ECONOMIC LIFE. IN ADDITION TO THEIR TRADITIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND TRADE, WOMEN ARE NOW PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE ROLE IN TOP EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS IN BOTH, THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

A WOMAN HAS JUST BEEN APPOINTED JAMAICA'S AMBASSADOR

TO FRANCE, THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE IMPORTANT URBAN
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS WELL AS THE MINISTER OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ARE WOMEN. MORE SPECIFICALLY, UNDP PROJECTS
ON LITERACY, VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ALREADY INVOLVE WOMEN TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, A
TREND WHICH WILL BE EMPHASIZED UNDER THE CURRENT
MANDATE. (1) NONE AT PRESENT EXCEPT AS
INDICATED ABOVE. GERARD

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